(b) and (c) Pollution from domestic and industrial sources, run-off from agricultural activities and encroachments are among the factors contributing to deterioration in water quality and shrinkage of lake area.

(d) to (f) The State Government has been advised to prepare a comprehensive action plan for conservation of the Kolleru Lake. An amount of Rs. 7.50 lakhs has been so far released to the State Government.

Report on the Affairs of Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal

240 SHRI SOM PAL :

DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report on the affairs of Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal published in Indian Express of 24th March, 1993; and

(b) if so, what action is being taken to improve the functioning of and streamlining the procedures for admission and recruitments to the Institute ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Government have seen the press report.

(b) The Institute had for sometime faced some problem due to absence of a whole time regular Director. This has now been set right with the appointment of a whole time Director in April, 1992. The Board of Governors have recently set up the Academic Council. The Institute has also effected recruitment for faculty positions in accordance with duly laid down procedure for selection of faculty from amongst Indian Forest Service Officers for forestry discipline and from amongst academics for other management disciplines. The Institute, though financially supported by the Government, is an autonomous organisation and is entitled to draw up its own budget proposals and regulate its expenditure, in accordance with the resources available to it. The admission procedure adopted by the Institute is the same as adopted by the other Management Institutes in the country.

Closures of mines in the protected forest area of Alwar district of Rajasthan

241. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has recently directed the immediate closure of mines in the protected forest area of Alwar district of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what are the details of mines operating activities in each State in protected forests areas;

(d) the number of them operating with permission and how many without the permission of the State Governments concerned;

(e) the number of them that have so far been closed down and by when all of them are likely to be closed in Rajasthan and in other States; and

(f) what is Government's policy about the mining activities in the protected forest areas and what steps Government have taken under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) The Supreme Court of India in their judgement dated 8-4-93 in the Writ Petition (C) No. 509 of 1991 (Tarun Bharat Sangh, Alwar Vs. Union of India and others) has directed that all the mining activities in the 215 mines mentioned in Appendix-A to the Report of Shri Justice M. L. Jain Committee shall stop forthwith. Similarly the mining activity in 47 mines mentioned in Appendix-B to the said report shall also stop forthwith insofaras they fall within the protected forest areas.

(c) and (d) There is no centralised record of mining activity allowed in Protected Forests prior to the enforcement of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and continuing in terms of such a lease. However, since the enactment of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, approvals for diversion of forest lands for mining have been given by the Central Government in respect of 95 cases. Statewise details are as under:

Andhra Pradesh	10
Bihar	6
Gujarat	4
Karnataka	5
Madhya Pradesh	36
Maharashtra	4
Orissa	13
Rajasthan	2
Tamil Nadu	7
Uttar Pradesh	5
Himachal Pradesh	1
A & N Islands	2
Total	95

(e) State Governments are expected to prevent or stop mining operations in protected forest areas if they are not being carried on in accordance with the law. There is, however, no centralised information about such closures effected by the State Governments.

(f) After the coming into force of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 no mining lease can be sanctioned by the State Governments in protected forests areas without obtaining prior approval of the Central Government. Decision to approve diversion of forest land for mining is taken after consideration of all the relevant information including likely effect of mining on environment, encluding on flora and fauna. Further, in certain specific areas of the Fragile Aravali Hills in Alwar district of Rajasthan and Gurgaon district of Haryana, as per notification dated 7-5-1992 issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, prior permission of the Central Government has been stipulated before any mining is undertaken.

Mining Activities in the Area covered under Project Tiger

242. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prohibited without its prior permission, all mining activities in the areas covered under Project Tiger, the Sariska Sanctuary and National Park, notified under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard.

(c) what are the recommendations of the Justice M. L. Jain Committee in this regard; and

(d) when was the report submitted by the Committee and what action Government have taken on each of the recommendations of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. This has been done by issuing a notification dated 7th May, 1992 under the provision of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(c) The Chairman of the Committee recommended that mining operations in all 215 mines falling completely within the areas declared as protected forests should be stopped forthwith. Further, 47 mines falling partly inside and partly outside the areas declared as protected forest should also be stopped forthwith to the extent they fell within the area declared as protected forest. The three other Members of the Committee differed from the Chairman and suggested that the Hon'ble Supreme Court be requested to consider the representation of the State Government wherein it was prayed that the area covered by the mines should be allowed to be excluded from the protected forest in lieu of which